

Care, Maintenance, and Planting of Public Trees

Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee
February 24, 2016

Presenters:

Mike Personett, Assistant Director, WPD

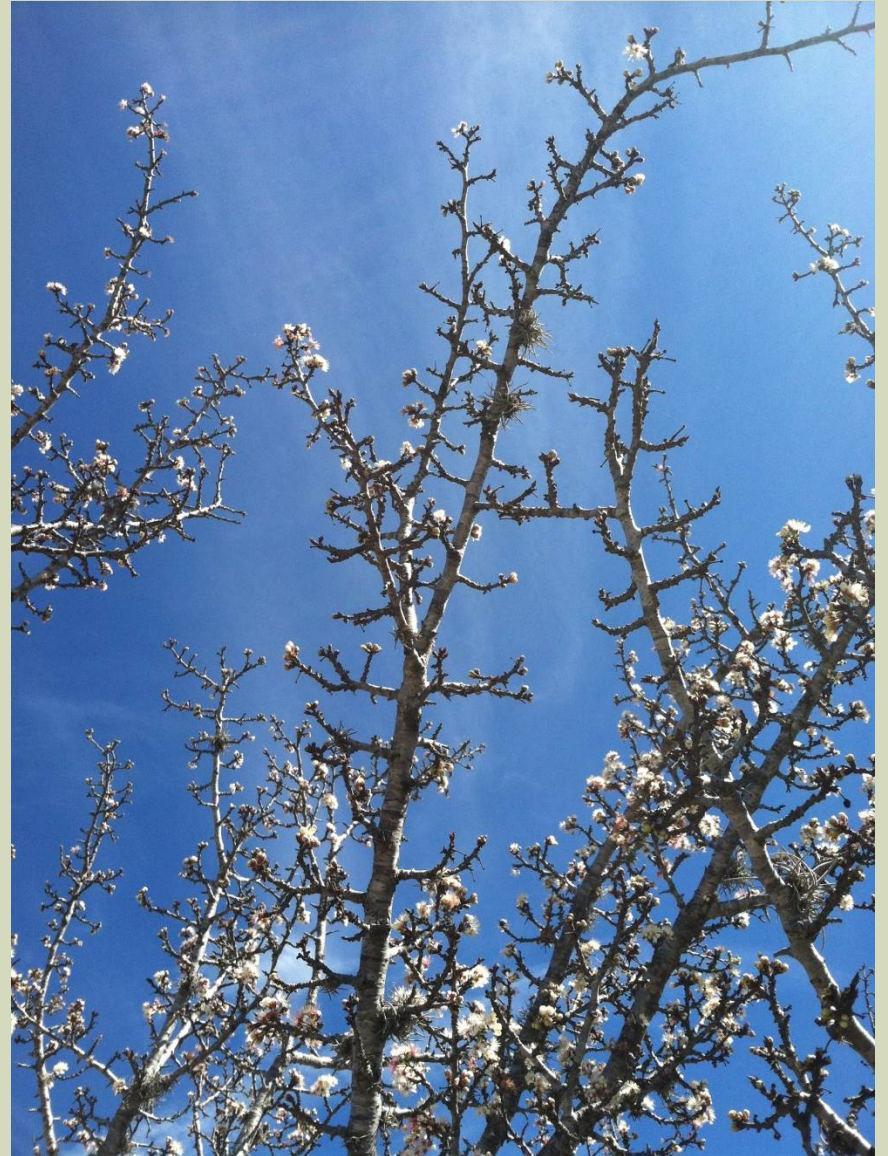
Michael Embesi, Division Manager, DSD

Emily King, Acting Urban Forester, DSD



Overview

- 2013 Council resolution
- City Arborist + Urban Forester
- Austin's Urban Forest Plan



Council Resolution

- CR 20130627-070 adopted June 26, 2013
- Directed the City Manager to:
 - ❖ Assess the value and benefits of public trees
 - ❖ Evaluate the current level of care for public trees
 - ❖ Consider tree-related service delivery issues
 - ❖ Report findings and recommendations



Findings

- Value & benefits of public trees
 - ❖ \$8M annual benefits
 - ❖ \$4.4B replacement value
- Level of care for public trees
 - ❖ Gap in funding analyzed
- Tree-related service delivery
 - ❖ Urban Forester function alignment





Recommendations



- Organizational Placement of the Urban Forester
 - ❖ Align with City Arborist Program (DSD)
- Inter-Departmental Alignment
 - ❖ Increase city-wide urban forestry coordination
- Funding to Close the Level of Service Gap
 - ❖ Develop a plan to close the funding gap





Functions 2013

City Arborist

Regulated trees

- Planning and policy
- Tree preservation
- Tree mitigation
- Tree planting
- Technical assistance
- Public education

Urban Forester

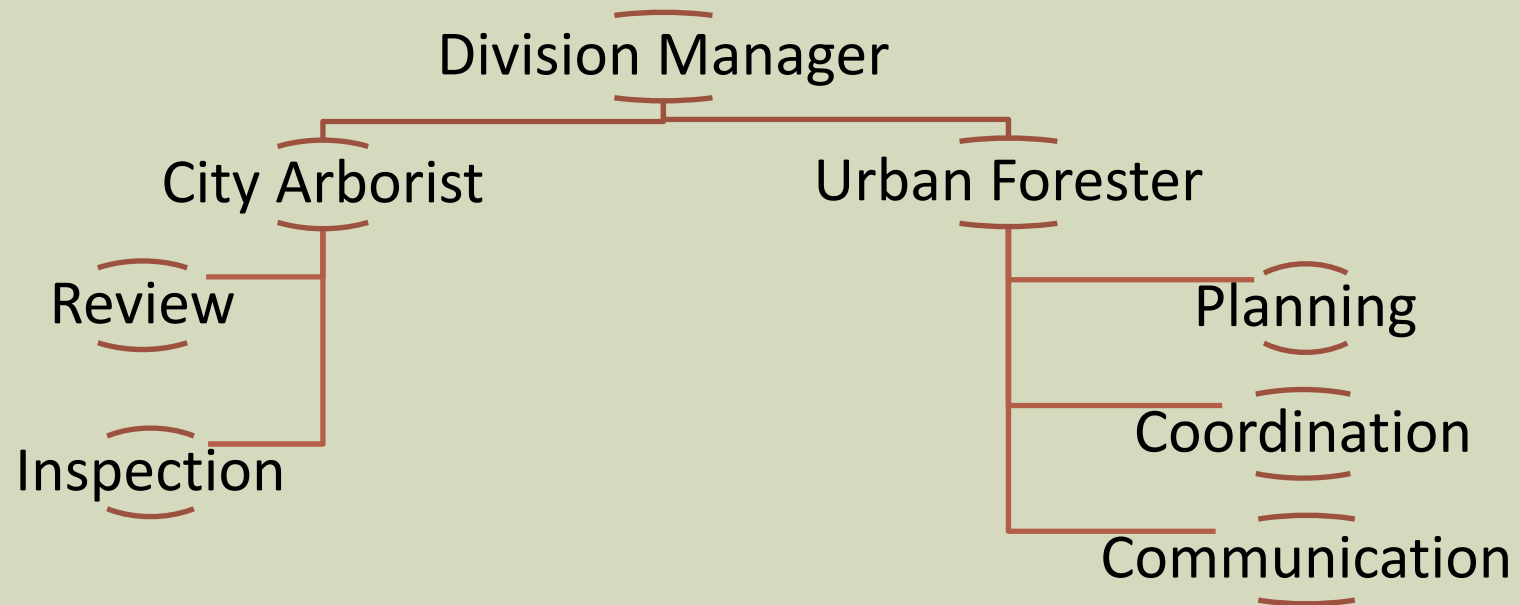
Public trees

- Planning and policy
- Tree preservation
- Tree mitigation
- Tree planting
- Technical assistance
- Public education
- Community partnerships
- Training



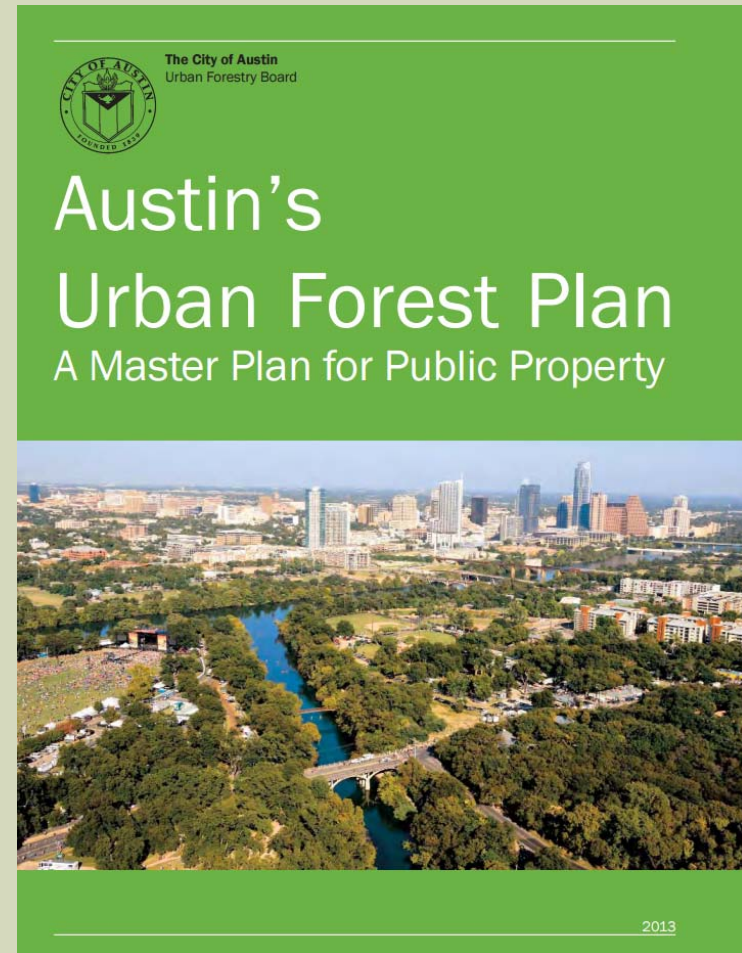


Community Forestry Division 2016



Austin's Urban Forest Plan

- Adopted by City Council 2014
- Implementation ongoing



Urban Forestry Coordination

Forestry Leadership Team

- Chartered
- Annual work plan established
- Core forestry operations represented



Urban Forestry Coordination

Interdepartmental Tree Working Group

- Communication platform
- Announcements
- Program updates
- Issues



Green Infrastructure Coordination

Public Lands Management

(Imagine Austin Green Infrastructure Priority Program)

“Develop and implement unified,
comprehensive management of all City
of Austin lands...”





Thank You

For more information:

<http://austintexas.gov/departments/urban-forest-planning>

